

BURTON, Robert Taylor, second counselor to Bishop Edward Hunter from 1875 to 1883, and first counselor to Bishop Wm. B. Preston since 1884, is the son of Samuel Burton and Hannah Shipley, and was born Oct. 25, 1821, at Amersberg, Canada West. He was the tenth in a family of fourteen children, seven of whom were born in England and the rest in America. His parents emigrated to America in 1817, and after residing two or three years in New York State they removed to western Canada. Some time in the autumn of 1837 two "Mormon" missionaries came into the neighborhood where the Burton family resided. Robert T. Burton, then only sixteen years of age, persuaded his father to entertain the Elders and provide a place in which they could expound their views. Soon after this the youth visited some relatives in the State of Ohio, spending the winter at school and the next summer in helping his widowed sister, Mrs. Jane Layborne, upon her farm. During his absence from home his father's family was converted to "Mormonism." He was informed of this fact by his mother, who in September visited him and her kindred in Ohio, and requested him to accompany them in their proposed migration to the far west. This meant at that time the State of Missouri, where the Latter-day Saints were gathering in large numbers. He consented to do so, though not without some reluctance, the result of certain rumors unfavorable to the Saints that were afloat concerning them in Ohio. Returning to Canada he was himself converted to the faith which his parents had espoused, and was baptized by Elder Henry Cook, October 23, 1838. In the latter part of that month he left Canada, with his father's family, for Far West, Caldwell county, Missouri, and had gone as far as Walnut Grove, Knox county, Illinois, when he learned of the terrible persecutions of the Saints in the adjoining State. He therefore concluded, with others, to remain at Walnut Grove, where a branch of the Church was organized, and there the Burton family resided for about two years. They then removed to Nauvoo. From June, 1843, to 1844, Robert T. Burton, who had been ordained an Elder, was absent from Nauvoo on a mission in Illinois, Michigan and Ohio, in company with Elder Nathaniel V.

Jones. Having baptized a goodly number and organized branches in the two latter States, they returned home, Elder Burton's arrival being just two weeks before the martyrdom of the Prophet and Patriarch. Right at this time he performed his first military duty, enlisting in Captain Gleason's cavalry company, Nauvoo Legion. He was on guard duty in Nauvoo at the time of the Carthage jail tragedy and for some time afterwards was constantly on duty there and in the vicinity, endeavoring to protect the lives and



property of his persecuted people from rapine and robbery. A lover of music and possessing talent in that line, he became a member of the Nauvoo Brass Band, and also connected himself with the Nauvoo Choir, besides performing other public duties. In January, 1845, he was called on a special mission, with Elder Samuel W. Richards, to travel through some of the central counties of Illinois for the purpose of allaying prejudice in the minds of the people, the result of falsehoods circulated by apostates and others in the vicinity of Nauvoo. He returned in time to be married on the 18th of December, to Miss Maria S. Haven, the ceremony uniting the young couple being performed by President Brigham Young at the home of the Havens in Nauvoo. The nearest approach to a wedding tour experienced by Bro. and Sister Burton was the tragic exodus of the ensuing spring, when the Saints began to leave

LATTER-DAY SAINT

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BURTON, Robert T., first coun-
 selor to Presiding Bishop Wm. B.
 Preston (continued from Vol. 1:238),
 died Nov. 11, 1907, in Salt Lake City,
 Utah, leaving an honorable name and
 a large family.